

Department of Children's Services
DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline is a training process through which a child develops the self-control, self-reliance and orderly conduct necessary to assume responsibilities, make daily living decisions and live according to accepted levels of social behavior. The goals of discipline for foster children are:

- * To problem-solve appropriate ways of getting needs met (i.e. needs for attention, ways to express feelings, etc.)
- * To feel good about relationships with other adults and other children
- * To have a positive self-concept

In order to accomplish these goals, the following guidelines should be followed:

- * All discipline must be reasonable and responsibly related to the child's understanding, need and level of behavior. All discipline shall be limited to the least restrictive appropriate method and administered in an appropriate manner.
- * Encouragement and praise of good behavior is often more effective than punishment and is a must in disciplining a child. The child's acceptance of discipline and ability to profit by it depends largely upon feeling that he/she is liked, accepted and respected.
- * Any discipline must be determined on an individual basis and be related to the undesirable behavior. Requiring children to accept the natural consequences of their acts may be a desirable experience provided consequences are not too drastic.

The following forms of punishment must **not** be used:

- 1) Corporal punishment, such as slapping, spanking or hitting with any object
- 2) Cruel and unusual punishment
- 3) Assignment of excessive or inappropriate work
- 4) Denial of meals and daily needs
- 5) Verbal abuse, ridicule or humiliation
- 6) Permitting a child to punish another child
- 7) Chemical or mechanical restraints
- 8) Denial of planned visits, telephone calls or mail contact with birth family or caseworker
- 9) Threat of removal from home

I have read this discipline policy of physical punishment and do comply with it.

Resource Parent

Date

Resource Parent

Date